

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4285

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5460

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJECT: MADEIRAN INDEPENDENCE

SUMMARY: MILITARY GOVERNOR OF MADEIRA HAS SPOKEN OUT ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN ARCHIPELAGO. HIS MAJOR POINTS: MADEIRA WANTS AUTONOMY, NOT INDEPENDENCE; RECENT SEPARATIST TACTICS COERCIVE, HURTING TOURIST TRADE, WILL BE OPPOSED; HE AND MADEIRAN GARRISONS LOYAL TO PORTUGAL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN SEPTEMBER 14 RADIO INTERVIEW, MILITARY GOVERNOR OF MADEIRA, BG CARLOS AZEREDO, COMMENTED ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN MADEIRA, WHERE INCREASING SEPARATIST ACTIVITY HAS CAPTURED ATTENTION OF LISBON PRESS IN RECENT WEEKS. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS COMMENTS FOLLOW:

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2. AUTONOMY, NOT INDEPENDENCE: MADEIRANS NEED GREATER ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY FROM LISBON THAN THEY HAVE ENJOYED IN THE PAST TO DEAL WITH THE ARCHIPELAGO'S UNIQUE GEOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY MUST HAVE ECONOMIC "SELF-DETERMINATION"; THE RIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, TO ORGANIZE OWN STOCK EXCHANGE, BANKING SYSTEM, OR CUSTOMS SCHEDULES. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH INDEPENDENCE. MADEIRANS ARE PORTUGUESE BY HISTORY, CULTURE AND LANGUAGE. RISE IN SEPARATISM IN ARCHIPELAGO HAS BEEN REACTION TO "MINORITY" GONCALVES GOVERNMENT ON CONTINENT.

3. SEPARATIST TACTICS: RECENT SEPARATIST TERRORISM (BOMBING OF STATE RADIO STATIONS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND PROPERTY OF "PROGRESSIVES") AS WELL AS "FLAMA ULTIMATUM" ARE "COERCIVE" AND BENEFIT NO ONE. THEY ARE HURTING MADEIRA'S IMPORTANT TOURIST TRADE, THEREBY ENDANGERING WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE. MADEIRAN ARMED FORCES, FAMILIAR WITH SUCH TACTICS FROM EXPERIENCE IN AFRICAN WARS, WILL USE ALL AVAILABLE MEANS TO STOP THEM.

4. LOYALTY: AZEREDO DENIED RECENT CHARGES BY MADEIRAN "PROGRESSIVES" AND LISBON LEFTIST PRESS OF HIS COMPLICITY WITH SEPARATISTS. "I AM A SOLDIER. I HAVE TAKEN AN OATH TO FLAG AND FATHERLAND. I HAVE NEVER BROKEN THAT OATH."

5. COMMENT: LIKE HIS COUNTERPART IN AZORES, MILITARY GOVERNOR ALTINHO PINTO DE MAGALHAES, AZEREDO OCCUPIES DELICATE POSITION. COMMUNIST-LINING LISBON PRESS HAS INCREASINGLY SINGLED HIM OUT AS SCAPEGOAT FOR MADEIRAN PROBLEMS. INTERVIEW OBVIOUSLY A RESPONSE TO THIS SMEAR CAMPAIGN. HIS COMMENTS SHOW THAT, LIKE MAGALHAES, HE HAS SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS OF MADEIRA. ALTHOUGH ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE ENJOYS WIDE SUPPORT IN ISLANDS, HIS CLEAR PROFESSIONALISM MAKES HIM AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE FOR A COUP ATTEMPT.  
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